



POSITION STATEMENT

Injury and Illness Prevention Programs

The Association of Occupational Health Professionals (AOHP), as the national leader for occupational health professionals in healthcare, strongly supports the creation and implementation of injury and illness prevention programs within all healthcare settings. These programs involve a proactive process to find and fix work place hazards before healthcare workers are injured. These programs have the ability to not only decrease injury and illnesses, they also have the ability to change the culture of the work environment including increased productivity and quality, reduced turnover, reduced costs and increased employee satisfaction.

The basic elements of a program include:

- Management leadership
- Worker participation
- Hazard identification and assessment
- Hazard prevention and control
- Education and training
- Program evaluation and improvement

These elements are individually important and collectively are interrelated and interdependent.

Each healthcare setting is different. These elements can be developed in a manner that will meet the needs of the organization.

Occupational health professionals (OHPs) in healthcare are well-suited to initiate and lead these efforts in their organizations. If the OHP is not the leader of the program, he/she is definitely a stakeholder that needs to be a member of the injury and illness prevention team

Reference: US Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Injury and Illness Prevention Programs, White Paper, January 2012

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